

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Please cancel claims 43-45

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to resources with the use of personal identification numbers, comprising the steps of:
 - concurrently maintaining a system-wide list comprising a plurality of different resource identifiers, wherein each of the resource identifiers is usable within a network to establish network communications between a requesting party and a resource, and a separate and distinct plurality of lists of resource identifiers, the plurality of lists being respectively associated with a plurality of subscriber identifiers;
 - establishing priority of the system-wide list over the separate and distinct plurality of lists in determining how to control requests for network communications;
 - receiving a request by a requesting party for network communications, the request including a requested resource identifier;
 - first determining whether the requested resource identifier is included in the system-wide list, the determination being made by comparing the requested resource identifier with the plurality of identifiers in the system-wide list, and without regard to a subscriber identifier associated with the requesting party;
 - if the requested resource identifier is included in the system-wide list:
 - permitting or denying the requested network communications in accordance with the system-wide list;
 - if the requested resource identifier is not included in the system-wide list:
 - retrieving the subscriber identifier associated with the requesting party;
 - retrieving one of the plurality of lists of resource identifiers associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier;

next determining whether the requested resource identifier is included in the retrieved list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier;
permitting the requested network communications if it is included in the list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier;
requiring the requesting party to input a personal identification number if the requested resource identifier is not included in the list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier; and
permitting the requested network communications if the requesting party inputs the correct personal identification number,
wherein the requested resource identifier includes a telephone number dialed by the requesting party, and
wherein the concurrently maintaining step includes augmenting HLR/VLR services of a mobile telephone service with the system-wide list and the separate and distinct plurality of lists, and
wherein the receiving step includes providing the request to the augmented HLR/VLR services, and
wherein the first determining step includes comparing, using the augmented HLR/VLR services, the telephone number with the plurality of identifiers in the system-wide list, and
wherein the step of retrieving the subscriber identifier includes extracting an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) associated with the request, and
wherein the step of retrieving one of the plurality of lists includes consulting the HLR portion of the augmented HLR/VLR services using the extracted IMSI.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of adding the requested resource identifier to the list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier if the requesting party inputs the correct personal identification number.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the system-wide list includes an always deny list, and wherein the step of permitting or denying the requested network communications includes denying the requested network communications if the requested resource identifier is included in the always deny list.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the system-wide list includes an always require PIN list, and wherein the step of permitting or denying the requested network communications includes requiring the requesting party to input a personal identification number if the requested resource identifier is included in the always require PIN list.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the requested network communication is a telephone connection and at least one of the resource identifiers in the system-wide list and the plurality of lists is a portion of a destination phone number.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to resources with the use of personal identification numbers, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a first list comprising one or more resource identifiers, wherein each of the resource identifiers is usable within a network to establish network communications between a requesting party and a resource, the first list being associated with a specific subscriber;

maintaining a second list separate from the first list, the second list comprising a plurality of different resource identifiers, wherein the first and second lists further include information corresponding to the resource identifiers that determines how to control requests for network communications;

first determining whether to permit network communications requested by a requesting party using the second list before consulting the ~~the~~ first list, and without regard to a subscriber identify associated with the requesting party;

requiring the requesting party to enter a personal identification number to access a further resource if a corresponding resource identifier for the further resource is not included in the first or second lists; and
adding the corresponding resource identifier for the further resource to the first list associated with the specific subscriber if the personal identification number entered by the requesting party matches a stored personal identification number for the specific subscriber,
wherein the requested resource identifier includes a telephone number dialed by the requesting party, and
wherein the maintaining steps include augmenting HLR/VLR services of a mobile telephone service with the first and second lists, and
wherein the first determining step includes providing the request to the augmented HLR/VLR services, and
wherein the first determining step includes comparing, using the augmented HLR/VLR services, the telephone number with the plurality of identifiers in the second list, and
wherein the requiring step includes extracting an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) associated with the request, and
wherein the requiring step includes consulting the HLR portion of the augmented HLR/VLR services using the extracted IMSI to access the first list associated with the specific subscriber.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the second list includes an always deny list and wherein the first determining step includes denying the requested network communications to a still further resource if a corresponding resource identifier for the still further resource is included in the always deny list.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the second list includes an always require PIN list and wherein the first determining step includes requiring the requesting party to input a personal identification number to establish requested network

communications with a still further resource if a resource identifier corresponding to the still further resource is included in the always require PIN list.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the requested network connections are telephone connections and at least one of the resource identifiers in the first and second lists is a portion of a destination phone number.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing access to resources with the use of personal identification numbers, comprising:

means for concurrently maintaining a system-wide list comprising a plurality of different resource identifiers, wherein each of the resource identifiers is usable within a network to establish network communications between a requesting party and a resource, and a separate and distinct plurality of lists of resource identifiers, the plurality of lists being respectively associated with a plurality of subscriber identifiers;

means for establishing priority of the system-wide list over the separate and distinct plurality of lists in determining how to control requests for network communications;

means for receiving a request by a requesting party for network communications, the request including a requested resource identifier;

means for first determining whether the requested resource identifier is included in the system-wide list, the determination being made by comparing the requested resource identifier with the plurality of identifiers in the system-wide list, and without regard to a subscriber identifier associated with the requesting party;

if the requested resource identifier is included in the system-wide list:

means for permitting or denying the requested network communications in accordance with the system-wide list;

if the requested resource identifier is not included in the system-wide list:

means for retrieving the subscriber identifier associated with the requesting party;

means for retrieving one of the plurality of lists of resource identifiers associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier;

means for next determining whether the requested resource identifier is included in the retrieved list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier;

means for permitting the requested network communications if it is included in the list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier;

means for requiring the requesting party to input a personal identification number if the requested resource identifier is not included in the list associated with the retrieved subscriber identifier; and

means for permitting the requested network communications if the requesting party inputs the correct personal identification number,

wherein the requested resource identifier includes a telephone number dialed by the requesting party, and

wherein the concurrently maintaining means includes means for augmenting HLR/VLR services of a mobile telephone service with the system-wide list and the separate and distinct plurality of lists, and

wherein the receiving means includes means for providing the request to the augmented HLR/VLR services, and

wherein the first determining means includes means for comparing, using the augmented HLR/VLR services, the telephone number with the plurality of identifiers in the system-wide list, and

wherein the means for retrieving the subscriber identifier includes means for extracting an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) associated with the request, and

wherein the means for retrieving one of the plurality of lists includes means for consulting the HLR portion of the augmented HLR/VLR services using the extracted IMSI.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16 further comprising means for adding the requested resource identifier to the list associated with the requesting party if the requesting party inputs the correct personal identification number.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein the system-wide list includes an always deny list, and wherein the means for permitting or denying the requested network communications includes means for denying the requested network communications if the requested resource identifier is included in the always deny list.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein the system-wide list includes an always require PIN list, and wherein the means for permitting or denying the requested network communications includes means for requiring the subscriber to input a personal identification number if the requested resource identifier is included in the always require PIN list.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein the requested network communications is a telephone connection and at least one of the resource identifiers in the system-wide list and the plurality of lists is a portion of a destination phone number.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing access to resources with the use of personal identification numbers, comprising:

means for maintaining a first list comprising one or more resource identifiers, wherein each of the resource identifiers is usable within a network to establish network communications between a requesting party and a resource, the first list being associated with a specific subscriber;

means for maintaining a second list separate from the first list, the second list comprising a plurality of different resource identifiers, wherein the first and second lists further include information corresponding to the resource identifiers that determines how to control requests for network communications;

means for first determining whether to permit network communications requested by a requesting party using the second list before consulting the ~~the~~ first list, and without regard to a subscriber identify associated with the requesting party;

means for requiring the requesting party to enter a personal identification number to access a further resource if a corresponding resource identifier for the further resource is not included in the first or second lists; and

means for adding the corresponding resource identifier for the further resource to the first list associated with the specific subscriber if the personal identification number entered by the requesting party matches a stored personal identification number for the specific subscriber,

wherein the requested resource identifier includes a telephone number dialed by the requesting party, and

wherein the maintaining means include means for augmenting HLR/VLR services of a mobile telephone service with the first and second lists, and

wherein the first determining means includes means for providing the request to the augmented HLR/VLR services, and

wherein the first determining means includes means for comparing, using the augmented HLR/VLR services, the telephone number with the plurality of identifiers in the second list, and

wherein the requiring means includes means for extracting an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) associated with the request, and

wherein the requiring means includes means for consulting the HLR portion of the augmented HLR/VLR services using the extracted IMSI to access the first list associated with the specific subscriber.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 24 wherein the second list includes an always deny list and wherein the first determining means includes means for denying the requested network communications with a still further resource if a corresponding resource identifier for the still further resource is included in the always deny list.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 24 wherein the second list includes an always require PIN list and wherein the first determining means includes means for

requiring the requesting party to input a personal identification number to establish requested network communications with a still further resource if a resource identifier corresponding to the still further resource is included in the always require PIN list.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 24 wherein the requested network communications are telephone connections and at least one of the resource identifiers in the first and second lists is a portion of a destination phone number.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the system-wide list includes an always allow list containing a phone number associated with emergency services.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the always deny list comprises a phone number associated with fraudulent use.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the always require PIN list comprises a phone number associated with one of an international call and a 900 number call.

34-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein at least one of the resource identifiers in the system-wide list is the 911 telephone number, and

wherein the first determining step includes determining whether the dialed telephone number is 911, and

wherein the permitting or denying the requested network communications includes always permitting the requested network communications if the dialed telephone number is 911.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein at least one of the resource identifiers in one of the plurality of lists is a dialing prefix, and

wherein the next determining step includes determining whether the dialed telephone number includes the dialing prefix while disregarding any other digits in the dialed telephone number, and

wherein the step of requiring the requesting party to input a personal identification number includes always requiring the requesting party to input the personal identification number if the dialed telephone number includes the dialing prefix.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 47, wherein the dialing prefix is a 900-type area code.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 47, wherein the dialing prefix is an international dialing sequence.